
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, April 28, 2009

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

Present – J. Drayer, A. Molteni, N. Brantley, Co-Chair – 3.

Also present – D. Hoag, S. Katzenmoyer

CALL TO ORDER

Neil Brantley called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by N. Brantley, seconded by A. Molteni, to approve the March 24, 2009 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

BERKS COUNTY EAC

Ms. Katzenmoyer reported on her follow-up regarding the Neversink Mountain native species issue. She stated that she has been in communications with the Berks County Conservancy and that they are monitoring the situation. She also requested that Public Works encourage Met-Ed to use non-invasive methods to control pests and weeds on Neversink Mountain.

SUMMER YOUTH BEAUTIFICATION

No report.

GARDENING WORKSHOPS

Mr. Brantley stated that a workshop was held by the master gardeners and was very well attended. He noted that there was good interaction and the workshop was very enjoyable.

EARTH DAY

Mr. Brantley reported that this year's Earth Day was very successful. He stated that it was very well attended and there was a very diverse crowd. He stated that the organizers were innovative and he looks forward to future festivities.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Mr. Molteni voiced his support of the proposed trolley.

Mr. Brantley inquired about a Bike to Work Day. Ms. Katzenmoyer informed the Council that May 15th is Bike to Work Day. She also noted that interested bikers are meeting at the Brentwood Trailhead for a trail ride that morning.

Ms. Katzenmoyer also informed the Board about BARTA's new bike racks on buses. She also noted that BARTA is adding more hybrid buses to its fleet and is supportive of the R-6 rail extension.

There was discussion of students in Reading High School and Reading middle schools having the opportunity to ride their bikes to school. It was noted that there are no bike racks available. Talks with the Reading School District would be required on this issue.

Ms. Drayer suggested a survey of students to see their interest in riding their bikes to school.

Mr. Brantley suggested possible donations of helmets from local business.

LIGHT POLLUTION

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained the problems created to neighborhoods by the bright, changing billboard on Route 422 near Brentwood Industries. She stated that this billboard creates glares and light issues for residents.

Ms. Katzenmoyer reviewed the current regulations regarding signs and billboards in the Zoning Ordinance. This type of sign is currently not covered.

The Council reviewed the Exeter Township Light Ordinance. They will focus on the section covering signs and billboards.

Ms. Hoag requested that the EAC receive copies of the City's current regulations. She also requested that Ms. Katzenmoyer follow up with Ms. Mayfield to determine if lighting in general will be addressed in the amendments to the Zoning and SALDO Ordinances.

The Council will continue their discussions at the next meeting.

PLANNING

Ms. Drayer noted that she attended the most recent Planning Commission meeting. She updated the Council about the proposed project at Albright College. She noted that the former site of the Armory building is classified as Brownfields.

Ms. Hoag explained the capping requirements and restrictions on soil movement on Brownfields sites.

Ms. Drayer questioned if she should continue attending Planning Commission meetings. She stated that environmental issues are already addressed when plans are brought to the Commission.

Ms. Hoag noted that the Berks County Conservation District reviews plans dealing with soil and erosion and some plans require review by the PA DEP.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Katzenmoyer extended an invitation for the Council to attend the Schuylkill Action Network Agricultural Project Tour. The tour will highlight projects dealing with stream bank fencing, cattle crossings, and plantings. The tour will be held on Thursday, May 14 at 9:30 am.

Ms. Katzenmoyer informed the Council that she, Ms. Hoag, and Ms. Rauenzahn recently attended the PA Institute for Children's Environmental Health (PICEH) breakfast.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, May 27 at 6 pm at Angelica Park.

The meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer, Deputy City Clerk*